

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05
IO-13 /085 W
-----040396 301545Z /45

R 301417Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0379
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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CINCEUR FOR J-4/LTCOL LAVIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR NATO
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS NOMINATION FOR POST OF GENERAL
MANAGER, CENTRAL EUROPE OPERATING AGENCY

REF: STATE 61090, 092132Z MAR 78
SUMMARY. THE NETHERLANDS HAS NOW NOMINATED A LONG-TIME
MEMBER (1966 - PRESENT) OF THEIR DELEGATION TO NATO AS
THE "BENELUX" CANDIDATE FOR THE SUBJECT POSITION IN CEOA.
IN HIS LETTER OF NOMINATION, NETHERLANDS PERM REP
(BARKMAN) CITES IMPORTANCE OF ALLEGED "GENTLEMAN'S AGREE-
MENT", RESERVING TOP POSITION FOR THE BENELUX, THUS RAIS-
ING THE POLITICAL ISSUE. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON
GUIDANCE FOR US STANCE DURING ENSUING NEGOTIATIONS ON SELE-
CTION BETWEEN US AND NETHERLANDS CANDIDATES. END SUMMARY.

1. NETHERLANDS LETTER OF NOMINATION IS QUOTED BELOW:

BEGIN TEXT:

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NO. 2252, BRUSSELS, MARCH 21, 1978.

UPON INSTRUCTIONS OF MY GOVERNMENT, I HEREWITH PROPOSE
MR. A. J. T. HOFMAN AS THE NETHERLANDS CANDIDATE FOR THE
POST OF GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CENTRAL EUROPE OPERATING
AGENCY. MR. HOFMAN'S CURRICULUM VITAE IS ATTACHED TO
THIS LETTER.

MEMBERS OF THE CEPPC (CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE POLICY COMMITTEE) AND, IN FACT, ALL OFFICIALS DEALING WITH THE CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE SYSTEM, KNOW THAT MR. HOFMAN HAS A LONG AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SYSTEM. DURING EIGHT YEARS, MR. HOFMAN REPRESENTED MY COUNTRY IN THE CEPPC, FOLLOWING WHICH, IN 1976, HE WAS CHOSEN TO THE POST OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. IN THAT QUALITY HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN, AND PAYED A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO, BRINGING ABOUT THE "CEPS GENERAL COMPROMISE AGREEMENT", FOR WHICH HE EARNED PRAISE FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CEPS COUNTRIES. IT WAS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED THAT HE HANDLED THE NUMEROUS MANAGERIAL AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE CEPS IN A MOST ABLE AND IMPARTIAL WAY AND, IN DOING SO, BECAME FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS FACING THE CEOA. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CEPS AS A WHOLE WILL BENEFIT FROM HIS APPOINTMENT.

IN PUTTING FORWARD THIS CANDIDATURE, I SHOULD LIKE TO STRESS THE GREAT IMPORTANCE MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT. I ALSO REFER TO NOTE NO AC/120-N/319 IN WHICH THE LIAISON OFFICER OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO TO CEPPC STATED THAT: "THE BALANCE BETWEEN HOST NATION DIRECTION OF THE AGENCY AND NON-HOST COUNTRY CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CEPPC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS VALUABLE AND SHOULD NOT BE LIGHTLY ABANDONED" AND "IT WOULD SEEM BEST TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT".

IN HIS OTHER FUNCTIONS AT THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION, MR. HOFMAN HAS HANDLED A WIDE VARIETY OF PROBLEMS OF DIVERSE NATURE AND MAGNITUDE IN NUMEROUS NATO COMMITTEES AND ALSO SHOWED GREAT SKILL IN HANDLING PERSONNEL PROBLEMS OF MY DELEGATION.

HIS ACTIVITIES HAVE FOUND RECOGNITION BY HIS APPOINTMENT TO OFFICER, ORDER OF ORANGE-NASSAU OF THE NETHERLANDS, AND OFFICER, ORDER OF MERIT OF THE FEDERAL GERMAN REPUBLIC. /S/ BARKMAN

CURRICULUM VITAE:

NAME: HOFMAN, ANTONIUS JOANNES THEODORUS

COUNTRY, PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH: THE NETHERLANDS, 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH, 8 SEPTEMBER 1926

MARITAL STATUS: MARRIED OF LUYMES, DORINE M. - 3 CHILDREN

EDUCATION: UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM, MASTER OF LAW - 1951;
COLLEGE OF EUROPE, BRUGES - CERTIFICATE - 1953; NATO
DEFENSE COLLEGE, PARIS - CERTIFICATE - 1966

LANGUAGES: DUTCH, ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN

EMPLOYER: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NETHERLANDS
SINCE 1 OCT 1953. PRESENT POSITION: NETHERLANDS DELEGATION
TO NATO SINCE 1 JULY 1966, COUNSELLOR, ADVISOR FOR CRISIS

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-----041258 301546Z /41

R 301417Z MAR 78
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MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL; NETHERLANDS
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FOLLOWING NATO COMMITTEES:

- (A) COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND EXERCISE COMMITTEE.
- (B) HIGH LEVEL EXERCISE PLANNING GROUP (HILEX) AND CENTRAL PLANNING TEAM (WINTEX).
- (C) SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO NATO CEP PLANNING BOARDS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES.
- (D) NATO JOINT COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE AND JOINT C-E WORKING GROUP.
- (F) NATO PIPELINE COMMITTEE AND STUDY GROUP ON THE ALLIANCE AND THE PROBLEM OF OIL SUPPLIES.
- (G) HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP ON THE EMPLOYMENT AND STATUS OF NATO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN TIMES OF CRISIS AND WAR.
- (H) HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP ON THE SURVIVABILITY OF THE

NATO HEADQUARTERS.

(I) 1967/1968 AND 1969/1975: CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE
POLICY COMMITTEE.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:
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(A) 1969: ON LOAN TO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF NATO
TO ACT AS EXERCISE DIRECTOR FOR EXERCISE CIVLOG 69 AT
ORLANDO, FLORIDA, USA.

(B) CHAIRMAN CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE POLICY COMMITTEE
1976/1977.

PREVIOUS POSITIONS:

1966: ATTACHED TO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO REPORT ON THE REORGAN-
IZATION OF THE INFORMATION DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY.

1962/1965: HEAD BUREAU OF ALIENS AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MEMBER OF THE NETHERLANDS
REPRESENTATION TO THE EUROPEAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZA-
TION (ESRO) AND THE EUROPEAN LAUNCHER DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION (ELDO), MEMBER OF NETHERLANDS DELEGATIONS TO
CONFERENCES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZA-
TION (ICAO), INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZA-
TION (IMCO) AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS (ECOSOC), MEMBER OF BENELUX COMMITTEES.

1953/1962: STAFF OFFICER, LATER ACTING HEAD BUREAU CENTRAL
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
MEMBER OF THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION FOR NUMEROUS
NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SETTLEMENT OF MATTERS ARISING OUT OF
THE WAR AND THE OCCUPATION (ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
QUESTIONS).

END TEXT.

2. MR. HOFMAN IS WELL KNOWN TO MISSION PERSONNEL AS
ACTIVE DUTCH REPRESENTATIVE IN A VARIETY OF COMMITTEES.
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ON THE PLUS SIDE HE HAS EXCELLENT NEGOTIATING ABILITIES.
HE HAS NOTABLY DONE A CREDITABLE JOB IN CHAIRING THE
CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE POLICY COMMITTEE TO A REASONABLE
SOLUTION OF ITS LONGSTANDING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WITH

FRANCE AND THE FRG. MOREOVER, WE KNOW THAT WE CAN WORK WELL WITH HIM. ON THE MINUS SIDE, WE ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS CERTAIN OF HIS MANAGEMENT QUALITIES. FOR INSTANCE, WE NOTE THAT HIS CURRICULUM VITAE CONTAINS VERY LITTLE REFERENCE TO MANAGEMENT QUALIFICATIONS, AND THAT HE HAS NO TECHNICAL PETROLEUM OR PIPELINE EXPERIENCE EXCEPT HIS MEMBERSHIP ON THE CEPPC, A FINANCIAL BODY.

3. WE HAVE CAREFULLY NOTED THE TERMS OF OUR GUIDANCE IN REFTTEL AND HAVE INFORMED BENELUX REPRESENTATIVES THAT OUR AIM IS TO ENSURE THAT CEOA'S NEXT GENERAL MANAGER BE "WELL QUALIFIED". WHILE WE BELIEVE HOFMAN TO BE WELL QUALIFIED FOR SOME POSTS (FOR INSTANCE, DIRECTOR OF CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING, FOR WHICH HE DID NOT APPLY), WE DO NOT BELIEVE HIM TO BE AS FULLY QUALIFIED IN THE PRESENT CASE.

4. OUR READING OF THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS INDICATES THAT BELGIUM (VOTING ALSO FOR LUXEMBOURG) WILL SUPPORT STRONGLY ANY BENELUX CANDIDATE UNDER THE "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT", TO WHICH THE US HAS NOT SUBSCRIBED. FRG IS REPUTED TO HAVE SOLD ITS VOTE FOR NETHERLANDS SUPPORT IN THE NAMSA MATTER. FRANCE AND THE UK ARE LIKELY TO PREFER A MILITARY MANAGER AND, THUS, PERHAPS BE WILLING TO QUESTION HOFMAN'S ABILITY TO MANAGE A MILITARY (CUM CIVIL) ENTERPRISE DOING \$50-60 MILLION ANNUALLY. IF THE "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED BINDING, WE ANTICIPATE UK MAY ALSO PRESENT A CANDIDATE. CANADIAN REP (ALARIE) HAS APPROACHED US WITH STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR A QUALIFIED US CANDIDATE IN ANY CASE, BUT PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF HOFMAN'S LACK OF

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R 301417Z MAR 78
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RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS.

5. WE EXPECT THAT THE CANADIAN REP WILL BE ON THE THREE-MAN SELECTION BOARD AND WILL VOTE FOR NOLAN, THUS BRINGING A FINAL DECISION TO THE CEPPC/CEPO PLENARY SESSION, WHERE WE BELIEVE WE AND THE CANADIANS WILL BE ISOLATED FOR POLITICAL (OR "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT") REASONS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRESENCE OF A US NOMINEE HAS NOT INSPIRED THE NETHERLANDS TO PUT UP A CANDIDATE WITH ALL THE RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS. WE ARE NOW FACED WITH EITHER INSISTENCE ON EVALUATION AGAINST TECHNICAL CRITERIA OR ACCEPTANCE OF A GENERAL MANAGER WITH WEAK TECHNICAL BACKGROUND FOR THE JOB.

6. IT SHOULD BE REALIZED THAT SHOULD HOFMAN BE SELECTED FOR THE POSITION, WE DO NOT SEE ANY PRACTICAL MANNER BY WHICH HIS APPOINTMENT COULD BE TERMINATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SINCE HE WILL NOT BE 65 UNTIL 1991, AND THE \$70,000 ANNUAL SALARY (TAX-FREE) AND EMOLUMENTS WOULD TEND TO COUNTERINDICATE HIS RESIGNATION. IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE US IS NOT WILLING TO VOTE AGAINST HIM IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, WE SEE NO POSSIBLE FUTURE BASIS FOR REFUSING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSED EXTENSION BEYOND THE INITIAL THREE YEARS, HOWEVER STRONG THE JUSTIFICATION.

7. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD SUPPORT OUR CANDIDATE EVEN AT THE RISK OF THROWING THE PROCESS OPEN TO A NEW ROUND OF NOMINATIONS AND TO CONFRONTATION WITH THE CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE SYSTEM (CEPS) HOST NATIONS (PARTICULARLY THE BENELUX) ON THE APPLICABILITY OF THE INEFFICIENT AND HIGHLY DISCRIMINATORY "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT". IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE AGREE TO SELECTION OF HOFMAN EVEN GIVEN HIS WEAK TECHNICAL BACKGROUND, WE WILL HAVE AGREED IMPLICITLY TO THE VALIDITY OF THE "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

8. REQUEST ADVICE ON STANCE TO BE ADOPTED BY US REP DURING EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF CANDIDATES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, MANAGERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO03248
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780138-0408
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978036/aaaaaeud.tel
Line Count: 324
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d3e5a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 61090
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3305404
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NETHERLANDS NOMINATION FOR POST OF GENERAL MANAGER, CENTRAL EUROPE OPERATING AGENCY
TAGS: MARR, XG, NL, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3e5a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014